

To fold into a wallet card, print document on the short edge and cut along the dotted lines.

Signs of Abuse	Signs of Abuse	Signs of Abuse	Signs of Abuse	Signs of Abuse
Neglect/Self-Neglect*	Financial Abuse/Exploitation	Physical Abuse	Emotional/Psychological Abuse	Sexual Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition/dehydration • Pressure sores • Empty fridge; expired/spoiled food; or lack of available food • Poor hygiene; dirty, torn, soiled or severely worn clothes; unchanged diaper; or elongated toenails • Necessary medical aids, like walkers or glasses, absent • Expired/unmarked medication bottles, or multiple bottles of a single medication • Home dirty; needs major repair; or infested with vermin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid bills/notices of service suspension • Abrupt changes in will, financial documents and/or spending patterns • Missing funds or property • Inadequate explanations about finances from the older person or caregiver upon asking • Appearance of a new person accepting expensive gifts from the older adult or taking control of finances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large unexplained bruises on the face, ears, back, neck or lateral side of the arm • Abrasions or rashes on wrists and ankles suggesting restraints were used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence, depression, tearfulness and anxiety in the older person • Intimidation and verbal attacks directed at the older person • Social isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruises around or bleeding from genitals • Difficulty walking or sitting • Torn or bloody undergarments

* APS definitions of neglect:

- **Active neglect:** willful failure by caregiver to fulfill care-taking functions and responsibilities.
- **Passive neglect:** non-willful failure to fulfill care-taking responsibilities because of inadequate caregiver knowledge, infirmity, or disputing the value of prescribed services
- **Self-neglect:** adult's inability, due to physical and/or mental impairments, to perform tasks essential to caring for oneself

Office of Children and Family Services. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/psa/adultabuse.asp>

References

1. Bomba PA. Use of a Single Page Elder Abuse Assessment and Management Tool. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*. 2008;46(3-4):103-122
2. Cannell MB, Jetelina KK, Zavadsky M, Gonzalez JMR. Towards the development of a screening tool to enhance the detection of elder abuse and neglect by emergency medical technicians (EMTs): a qualitative study. *BMC Emergency Med*. 2016;16(1):19.
3. Gibbs LM. Understanding the medical markers of elder abuse and neglect: physical examination findings. *Clin Geriatr Med* 2014;30:687-712.
4. Rosen T, Stern ME, Elman A, Mulcare MR. Identifying and Initiating Intervention for Elder Abuse and Neglect in the Emergency Department. *Clin Geriatr Med*. 2018 Aug;34(3):435-451
5. Young LM. Elder Physical Abuse. *Clinical Geriatric Medicine*. 2014;30:761-768.



TIP CARD FOR HOME CARE

HOW YOU CAN DETECT ELDER ABUSE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT



Risks

Be **alert** to the possibility of abuse when the following are present:

For the Victim

- Cognitive impairment (including dementia)
- Social isolation
- Functional dependence or disability
- History of family violence

For the Perpetrator

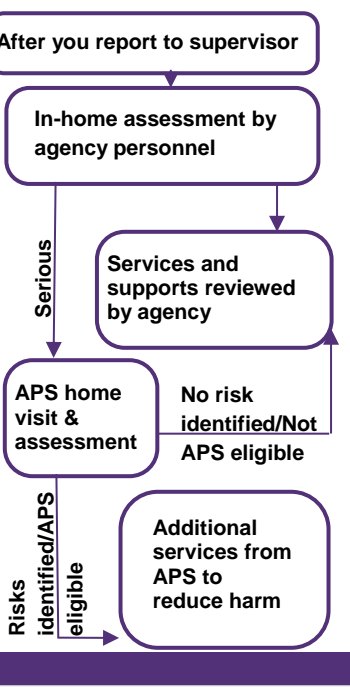
- History of substance abuse and/or gambling
- Untreated mental illness
- Caregiver stress
- Financial dependence on older adult

If you feel there is abuse

- **Report to your supervisor** if you notice the signs in your visits or if the older person admits to being harmed. Be accurate and detailed in your report. Write down your observations and the older person's statements.
- **Call 911** if there is immediate danger. Realize that sometimes you cannot solve the problem on your own. **Get help** when the situation escalates.

Under NY Social Services Law 473-b, you are protected from civil liability for reporting.

What to expect



Who to call

Provide the individual with the following helplines in case they wish to self-report or seek additional help:

- **Adult Protective Services (APS)** - Call NYS OCFS Adult Services Helpline, 1-844-697-3505, M-F 8:30 am – 8 pm (except holidays) for contact information for your local APS.

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